

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/817,365
Amendment filed February 10, 2005
Reply to OA dated August 11, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 11, 2004.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 - 13 remain in this application. Claim 3 has been canceled and claims 4 - 6 have been allowed.

The applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1 - 4, as indicated in item 7, page 4 of the outstanding Action.

However, the Examiner maintains the following anticipation and obviousness rejections under 35 USC §§102(b) and 103(a):

- 1) claims 1, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Baylor (U.S. Patent No. 4,426,091);
- 2) claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on Baylor in view of Peguet (U.S. Patent No. 2,877,029);

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- 3) claims 7 - 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on Taft (U.S. Patent No. 5,183,318) in view of Baylor; and
- 4) claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on Taft in view of Baylor, and further in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 5,069,509).

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

It is noted that, as indicated above, independent claim 4 has been allowed. A significant structural arrangement of the applicants' claimed seal assembly, as set forth in allowed claim 4, includes the following:

one of the said seal rings (1) and (1) comprises said outer-diameter controller body (32) for controlling the displacement of said load seal ring (2) in the periphery outer direction, and the other one of said seal rings (1) and (1) comprises said inner-diameter controller body (32) for controlling the displacement of said load ring (2) in the periphery inner direction.^{1/}

In order to expedite the processing of this application to issuance, the applicants have, at this time, incorporated the above-discussed structural arrangement, set forth in allowed independent claim 4, into each of independent claims 1 and 7, with certain modifications. For example, instead of reciting "outer-diameter controller body (32)" and "inner-diameter controller body (32)", "a controller body (32)" is recited in each of independent claims 1 and 7. Also, the phrases "the periphery outer

^{1/} Please see, allowed independent claim 4 found on page 3 of the Amendment filed on April 26, 2004.

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direction" and "the periphery inner direction" have been changed to "a first periphery direction" and "a second periphery direction," respectively.

Also, in the last line of independent claim 1, the "periphery inner direction" has been changed to "third periphery direction".

In view of the above, each of independent claims 1 and 7 (and the claims dependent therefrom) now contain allowable claimed subject matter stemming from the language of allowed independent claim 4.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding rejections under 35 USC §§102(b) and 103(a) is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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